

The Morning Times

(MORNING, EVENING AND SUNDAY.)

BY THE Washington Times Company.

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Sunday only, one year, 1.00

Orders by mail must be accompanied by

subscription price.

TELEPHONE: Editorial Room, 486;

Business Office, 1640.

Circulation Statement.

The circulation of THE TIMES for the

week ended Saturday, September 25, 1897, was

as follows:

Sunday, September 25.....23,547

Monday, September 26.....30,068

Tuesday, September 27.....30,068

Wednesday, September 28.....30,068

Thursday, September 29.....30,068

Friday, September 30.....30,068

Saturday, September 31.....30,068

Total.....263,701

Daily average (Sunday, \$2.50, ex-

cepted).....40,616

Communications intended for publication

in THE TIMES should be clearly and plainly

written and must in all cases be accompanied

by the name and address of the writer. Re-

jected communications will not be returned,

and only communications of obvious importance

will be returned to their authors.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1897.

Common Sense From London.

It is often that we find ourselves

in agreement with any one of our English

contemporaries on subjects connected with

international politics. On that account

it is the more pleasant to read something

of our own countrymen on the subject of

our strained relations with Spain. The

Spectator appears to accept as true the

report that the American Government has

disavowed Spain in regard to the Cuban

situation, and says:

Apart from the fact that pride and ig-

norance of the consequences of Spain defy

the United States, war is probably con-

sidered to be the best way out of the

difficulties.

Were the government to propose the

abandonment of Cuba in cold blood, it

would simply land itself into the country

to the United States, as the support, to

the necessary extent, which would

prevent the Cuban government from

proceeding in the way of a body politic.

To propose the war would be a crime

and if America chooses to stop these hap-

penny conditions all Englishmen should

uphold and refuse to inquire too narrowly

into the reason which influences her

action in putting pressure upon Spain.

Time is good sense and prudence

regard for humanity in utterances like

the above. It is to be regretted that we

do not hear more of them. They sound well

compared with the views exchanged be-

tween the Kaiser and Franz Joseph of

Austria at Budapest the other day, when

the latter is reported to have inquired of

his guest what they would better do in

view of this "interference" of America in

the affairs of Spain.

As far as the news and gossip of the

continental capitals is good authority, there

does not appear to be much prospect that

even the German Emperor, who is the

most reckless of the lot, will do more

than growl in case we should have trouble

with the Spanish government. Notes, we

are told, have been exchanged between

the different cabinets and a tacit under-

standing reached that they are to feel sorry for the Queen Regent and keep their hands out of the fire, which is the sensible thing for them to do.

That being comfortably arranged, it only remains for us to pursue our own in patience. The Ohio election is due to arrive now in five weeks. In about four weeks, therefore, it will be time to listen patiently for something to drop, the sickening truth of which will rebound from the wave-washed shores of Cleveland to the Indiana frontier. We have waited as long for whatever is going to happen, the hope may be excused that when it does materialize it will be something worth while.

Bimetallism Abroad.

Notwithstanding the fact that a considerable number of prominent London bankers, representing leading private and joint stock institutions, attended the meeting in that city last week called to consider the letter of the governor of the Bank of England on the question of a silver reserve, and joined in passing a resolution seriously criticizing the proposition, there no longer can be any doubt that financial opinion in the great center of the world's exchanges steadily and visibly is veering around to the silver side.

In proof of this it may be remarked that such an ultra-conservative gold exponent as Lord Rothschild, in referring to this new development, says: "It is stated that considerable weight of opinion has developed in London banking circles in favor of a modified resumption of the Indian mint to the courage of silver, many of those who are not extremists in their views taking the ground that the closing of the mints was a mistake, and that the scarcity of money and high interest rates in India makes some relief a necessity for the good of commerce in India."

One would think, with evidence of this gradual return of the British mind to the plane of financial common sense, and strong indications that the military and bank of England both favor some movement in the direction of bimetallism, that our commissioners ought to meet the British authorities next month with improved chances for success. It is hard to say how far these chances may be depressed by any idea that the Hanna Administration has been hypocritical on the subject of international bimetallism, notwithstanding the declaration of the St. Louis platform, and the pledge contained in Mr. McKinley's inaugural address. It will

not fail to be noticed abroad that a self-constituted "monetary commission" is sitting at Washington, apparently on close terms of intimacy with the Secretary of the Treasury, and is preparing a scheme of "currency reform," the cornerstone of which will be the single gold standard, eternal and unalterable.

An unpleasant impression may be produced in Europe if it should appear that, now international bimetallism is seen to be feasible, Mr. Hanna and Mr. McKinley were no longer as enthusiastic for it as they formerly were, when it seemed to Republican leaders a matter of impossibility.

Liberty in Germany.

For some time the trend of events in the old world has seemed to be in the direction of a restoration of absolutism in government. This tendency has been encouraged by the vast standing armies which Continental States have felt compelled to maintain since the Franco-Prussian war, and which, in the hands of ambitious princes, have seemed to be used in the direction of repression, though not necessarily in an open manner.

No one can deny that in Europe the militarism of the generation has much retarded the march of progress in the matter of popular liberty and the influence of the masses. When militarism takes absolute possession of a country, as it has of the new German empire, it is but a step from that to absolutism, and the "divine right" of which Emperor Wilhelm prates so persistently. But it appears that public opinion is not altogether dead in Germany, and that there still exists here and there, a son of the fatherland with the courage to denounce the onerous advance of mediocrity and tyranny, as represented in the person of the bad-tempered man who occupies the throne built for his grandfather by Bismarck and Moltke. Herr Haumann, leader of what is called the South German People's Party, in a speech at Mannheim delivered last week, made use of this particularly vigorous language:

We are not afraid of a coup d'etat. German citizens know their strength. No body class, whether the will of the nation, neither man, minister nor emperor. No body is able to crush that will. German spirit is not controlled by cannon, but by thoughts, and it will be squelched under the profligate. Things cannot continue much longer as at present. For the good of Germany there must needs come a change for the better.

While such outbursts are possible there should be room for hope that a reaction toward free government may yet set in before the advent of a new century.

The nineteenth century has been marked by theories of the people, and at one time, by a general dominance of personal despotism. The last three decades, however, have witnessed retrogression in this respect, since constitutional institutions everywhere have passed under the control of the allied powers of gold and guns.

Gladstone, Greece and Egypt.

Herbert we have referred to Mr. Gladstone's letter, published in the London Chronicle last week, in which the aged statesman discussed the, for Great Britain, humiliating treaty of peace imposed upon Greece by the Continental powers. In view of all later developments, we will quote a few lines of it again:

The pain, shame and mischievous of the last two years in the Eastern policy transcending entirely the powers of any language I could use concerning them. The debt is this:

Firstly—A hundred thousand Armenians have been slaughtered, with no security against a repetition, and with greater profit to the assassins.

Secondly—Turkey is stronger than at any time since the Crimean war.

Thirdly—Greece is weaker than at any time since she became a kingdom.

Fourthly—All this is due to the European concert, that is, the mutual hatred and distrust of the powers.

The pain and shame are not yet complete for England. The Sultan not only is preparing to reassert his power in Crete, in which design there is no room for doubt that he has the full consent and backing of Russia, but, under the same auspices, it is apparent that he is about to order Great Britain out of Egypt.

A recent Constantinople dispatch to this journal asserted that Russia was on the point of calling an international conference, the purpose of which would be to guarantee the autonomy of Egypt and the suzerainty powers of the Sultan over that country. If true, and we have no reason to doubt it, there is in process of incubation an affront to the British nation that will drive every citizen wild with rage, and, we should say, compel Lord Salisbury to fight, no matter what might be his views of the probable consequences of the combat.

It only requires some crowning act of insult and contumely like that mentioned to tear up and scatter in shreds the last remnant of British prestige in Europe; that is, unless, successfully, it could be met with war, the result of which would have to be the demoralization and condign punishment of Turkey at least, to do John Bull any good. And that would be a difficult job to manage; because it is not Turkey alone, but united Europe that England would now have to meet.

The Poor Conductors.

Street car conductors must have a sad time in Chicago. One of the newspapers of that town indulged in sulphurous editorial remarks recently on the refusal of conductors to change \$20 bills, or even \$5 bills, and regards it as an outrage that because a citizen had only a \$20 bill, he was put off the car. It is alleged that the conductors get surly when they are asked to change large bills, and then the passengers become angry, and things which are not nice are said on both sides.

Street car companies do occasionally think they own the earth, and employees of those companies sometimes are surly and unaccommodating, but the latter state of things is somewhat more rare than the first. In the first place, a corporation is said to have no soul, and the conductor has usually been taught to believe that he has a soul and ought to attend to it, which makes some difference. Then the conductor knows that if he is rude, or even tactless, he is liable to be complained of in a way that will lose him his place. It may not be thus in Chicago, however.

But unless human nature is very different in that town from what it is in most other places, there are many citizens who will, if they can, get a bill changed on a street car instead of taking the precaution to have small change. The car is a

handy place, and it is not always handy to get bills, especially large bills, changed elsewhere. Therefore, unless some such rule is adopted, there are likely to be so many large bills to change in the course of the day, now and then, that the conductor would have to be a walking bank of fractional currency in order to accommodate. And this is not desirable. It seems as if anybody might see that, but some people don't.

Dorcas Cockran proclaims that he is still a Democrat. It is not the first time he has proclaimed something difficult to believe.

It will not be long before the diamond will give place to the gridiron, and the baseball games will have an opportunity to go on a prolonged hot, while the football eleven will return to college full of pluck and determination to lick the other fellows out of their boots. Such is life, and man is like the grass which groweth up, and is consequently subject to hay fever and the scythe of old time. And with the melancholy days which usher in the football season will come the discussion whether or not students ought to be allowed to play football. There will be the same old arguments about its brutality and the way in which it interferes with more gentle occupations, and there will be outcries from fond mothers, who see visions of their precious boys with noses broken and ankles sprained and systems permanently injured by negligence in match games; and there will be solid growth from fathers who think that their boys ought to get something out of college besides athletics, and college professors will write learned articles for and against the football match; and the football team will joggerily on its way from glory to glory, and occupy several columns every week or so in all the daily papers. Probably the preachers disapproved of the tournament of the Middle Ages, but the tournament continued all the same, till it died of old age. The fact is, a fashion in dress, in sports, in politics, or anything else has to run its course like the measles, and it might as well be understood that this is so.

When Attorney General McKenna gets through with the Little Live Stock Trust in Mr. Bryan's State, he might with more profit to the people turn his attention toward the big Oil Trust in Mr. McKinley's State.

The Spanish report that Gen. Ballobera Acosta, the Cuban patriot leader, had been caught in diapiric when about to leave Havana on a steamer, proves to be untrue.

The name of Acosta was a Cuban petty officer named Acosta, who gave the name of Acosta when taken. Gen. Acosta being recently wounded and unable to continue in the field, turned his command over to Gen. Castillo, and with two friends succeeded in getting away safely to Mexico on a steamer which left Havana two weeks ago.

An ancient controversy about the kind of music that should be played in churches has been revived, and there is much verbal clashing in consequence. We venture to suggest to the disputants that it is paradoxical to have discord about harmony.

Much surprise is expressed in Montreal in view of the announcement, in Colonial Secretary Chamberlain's organ, that Great Britain has ordered an extensive armament and will undertake the fortification of the Canadian metropolis on an elaborate and costly scale. Professional remarks made by Lord Chalmers while inspecting the position leave no shadow of doubt that the enemy to be fortified against is the American Government. A little thing like that will not, however, prevent England from trying to coax through another arbitration treaty next winter.

The Treasury Department has adopted the view of the discriminating duty clause 22, presented by the Attorney General, and a circular is being prepared accordingly for the instruction of customs collectors. The cunning Mr. Elkins is left.

There seems to be a difference of opinion as to whether Senator James K. Jones wrote that letter to Senator Murphy or not. The latter, who is reported to have read it to Sheehan and a lot of others at the Hoffman House, probably thinks he did, but the chairman has thought differently for several days, even denying the act altogether. One New York paper suggests that, as the letter was typewritten, Mr. Jones may be justified in declaring that he did not write it. Strange things happen along about election time.

The mystery of Lord Salisbury's action in the matter of the sealing ceremony is cleared up. According to our London advices yesterday, Canada pressed him to withdraw, since, if Russia and Japan participated, Great Britain might be outvoted. So Sir Julian Pauncefote will not be allowed to start for his post until October 26, too late to attend the conference. Possibly we may be able to get along without him. Russia, Japan and this country are the parties of majority interest. They ought to be able to settle the matter among themselves and compel England and Canada to respect their decision.

Gen. Tracy, having patriotically consented to sacrifice himself on the altar of Platt and his country, it is to be hoped that he will abide the issue with that philosophy which belongs to noble souls.

Worth no longer makes the man in Brooklyn Republican politics.

English Euphemism.

(From the Chicago Tribune.)

"I thought you told me your English cousin was such a plain-spoken man—that he always called a spade a spade."

"Well, I find he doesn't. He calls it a spade."

A Persecuted Boy.

(From the Cleveland Plain Dealer.)

"What immense ears the new neighbor's boy has!"

"Yes, mamma. He told me what made 'em so big."

"What was it?"

"He said his mamma washed 'em so much that they soaked full of water and swelled."

An Unreliable Sound.

(From the Chicago Post.)

"No," he said, thoughtfully, "I don't believe in any of this talk about ladies."

"Why not?"

"Well, it sounds too much like a weather prediction."

Trying to Take It Along.

(From the Philadelphia North American.)

"Old Crusty was a thoroughly mean and selfish man."

"What was it?"

"He said his mamma washed 'em so much that they soaked full of water and swelled."

An Antismell Resort.

(From the New York Times.)

"We shall burn our bridges behind us," says Quigg. There are no bridges on Salt River, and navigation is not resumed until after election.

The Use of Mr. Carman.

(From the Cleveland Plain Dealer.)

"Bliss Carman says he never reads the daily papers."

"Heaven! What an idiot juryman!"

A Heartless Hint.

(From the Chicago News.)

Smith—"I wear out six hats every year. Jones—"Why don't you use a telephone?"



Black English Calf Shoes, with kangaroo tips, and made on London last, with medium toe. Comfortable the moment you put them on. Worth \$2.75. Our price, \$1.98.

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